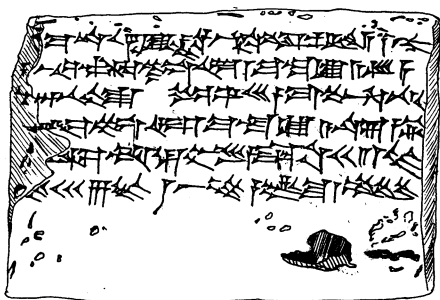


NABU 1997-13 Ran & Tikva Zadok

LB texts from the Yale Babylonian Collection — These documents were copied and collated by Tikva Zadok. Ran Zadok is responsible for the transliteration, translation and interpretation. We are indebted to William W. Hallo for permission to publish these texts, as well as to Ulla Kasten, Paul-Alain Beaulieu and Erica Ehrenberg for their kind assistance. The documents belong to the same archive of letter orders as *ROMCT* 2, 47 (36 Art[axerxes]); 48 (18?.x.35 Art.); 49 (27.v.36 Art.); 50 (20.ix.36 Art.); 51 (12.xi.35 Art.); H.G. Stigers, *JCS* 28, 24: 3 (20.xi.35 Art.); 37: 24 (26.x.35 Art.); M.W. Stolper, *JCS* 40 (1988), 150f.: *FLP* 1455 (4.x.35 Art.); 151f.: *FLP* 1480 (17.iii.21 Art.). Thus the chronological range is 17.iii.21 -20.ix.36 Artaxerxes. Stolper (in F. Rochberg-Halton [ed.], *Language, literature and history: Philological and historical studies presented to Erica Reiner* [New Haven 1987], 399 with n. 47 and *JCS* 40, 150f.) cautiously suggests that the ruler is Artaxerxes I, in which case the years in question would be 444/3-429/8 B.C.

NBC 6150 (Nippur, 23.I.429/8 B.C.)

1. [x+?]I MA.NA u 4 GÍN KÙ.BABBAR AŠ KÙ.BABBAR ŠÁM
SÍG^{hla} [š]á {a?-na?}
2. AŠ IGI ^{md}EN.LÍL-MU-DU ù ^{mba-la-tu} A^{mcs}šá
3. [m]^dBE-TIN-su ^{la}GÍŠ.BAR^{mcs}šá É.KUR AŠ *qa-ti*
4. [m]^dEN.LÍL-MU-DU ù ^{mba-la-tu} a-na É NÌ.GA
5. [šá tE]N.LÍL *mah-ru-* ^{ia}BÁR U₄ 23 KAM
6. MU 36 KAM ^{maš-tah-šá-as-su} LUGAL KUR.KUR
- R. (seal impressions)
7. ^{na}KIŠIB ^{na}KIŠIB
8. ^{md}MAŠ-MU ^{md}EN.LÍL-*it-tan-nu*



Translation

[x?]+1 mina of silver and 4 shekels of silver out of the silver, the price of wool, which are at the disposal of Ellil-šuma-ukīn and Balātu sons of Ea-bullissu, the officials in charge of the rent of Ekur, were received from the hands of Ellil-šuma-ukīn and Balātu in (lit. to) the storehouse of Ellil. Month I, day 23, year 36 (of) Artaxerxes King of Lands.

Seal of Ninurta-iddina ; seal of Ellil-ittannu.

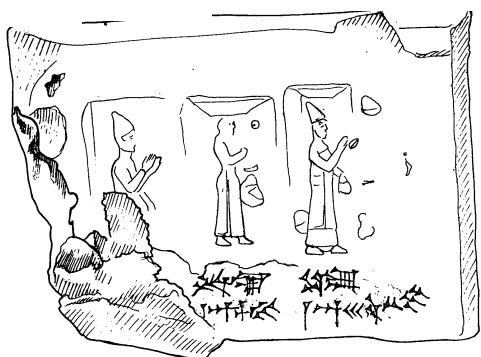
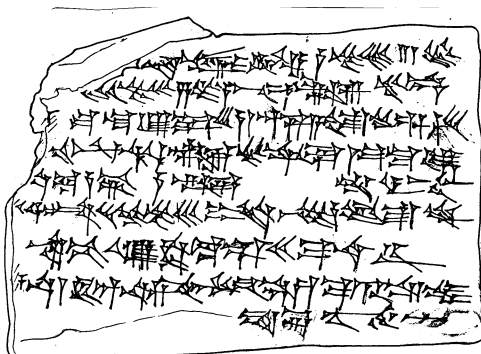
Remarks

Line 2. Both Ellil-šuma-ukīn and Balātu are described as « in charge of the wool » in *ROMCT* 2, 47-49, 51 (restored in 50), Stigers, *JCS* 28, 37 : 24 (if the latter is identical with as Ellil-uballiṭ as argued by G.J.P. McEwan, *ROMCT* 2, 60 ad 47), and Stolper, *JCS* 40, 150f. : *FLP* 1455, whereas in Stigers, *JCS* 28, 24 :3, 2f. they bear the title ¹⁰UMBISAG^{mes} (« clerks, accountants ») of Ekur (the form of the ŠID sign, if correctly copied, is unusual). In the earliest document of this archive (Stolper, *JCS* 40, 151f. : *FLP* 1480 ; 444/3 B.C.) they appear as the last members of a list of five clerks (presumably their seniors). In *NBC* 6157 (430/29 B.C.) they are described as « in charge of the rent ».

R. The seals were drawn by Y. Saig. Cf. *ROMCT* 2, 49 ; Stigers, *JCS* 28, 37 : 24 ; Stolper, *JCS* 40, 150ff. : *FLP* 1455, 1480. The seals of this document are almost identical. They resemble the seal which is described in L.B. Bregstein, *Seal use in fifth century Nippur, Iraq : A study of seal selection and sealing practices in the Murašû archive* (doctoral dissertation, University of Pennsylvania 1993 ; Ann Arbor 1994 ; henceforth Bregstein, *Seal use*), 649, 1249 from Nippur, 429/8-425/4 B.C. : « A bald and clean-shaven Babylonian worshipper facing right wears a long fringed robe with a central pleat. In his left hand he holds the round bottom of a vase ; in his right hand he holds the neck [of the vase]. Opposite his head is the crescent moon. » In the field opposite him there are several small items (cf. perhaps Bregstein, *Seal use*, 255 : 1656 *in fine*).

NBC 6157 (Nippur, 30.IX.430/29 B.C.)

1. [x GÍN KÛ.BAB]BAR¹ ŠÁM SÍG^{hi-a} šá MU 33 KAM
2. [MU 34 KA]M u MU 35 KAM šá AŠ IGI ^mdEN.LÍL-MU-DU
3. [ù] ^mba-la-tu DUMU^{mes} šá ^mdé-a-TIN-su



4. ^{lu}GIŠ.BAR^{meš} AŠ *qa-ti* ^mdEN.LÍL-MU-DU ù ^mba-la-tu
 5. [a-n]a É NÌ.GA šá ^dEN.LÍL mah-ru-³
 6. ^[lu]GAN U₄ 30 KAM MU 35 KAM aš-tah-šá-as-su LUGAL
 7. AŠ ŠĀ^{ku} 10 GÍN KÙ.BABBAR *ku-um* 20 MA.NA SÍG
 8. a-na ^mha-an-na-ni-³ ^{lu}paq-du šá ^mma-si-iš-tu₄
 9. it-tan-nu-³
 - R. (three seal impressions ; the inscription under the right seal is entirely broken)
- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. ^{na} KIŠIB | 1. ^{na} KIŠIB |
| 2. ^m dMAŠ-MU | 2. ^m dXXX-na-din-MU |

Translation

[x = 2-9] shekels of silver the price of wool of the 33rd year, the 34th year and the 35th year at the disposal of Ellil-šuma-ukīn and Balātu sons of Ea-bullissu, the officials (in charge) of the rent, were received from the hands of Ellil-šuma-ukīn and Balātu in the storehouse of Ellil. Month IX, day 30, year 35 (of) Artaxerxes, the King. Out of 10 shekels of silver in lieu of 20 minas of wool they have give to Hannanī the bailiff of Masištu.

Seal of Ninurta-iddina ; seal of Sîn-nādin-šumi.

Remarks

Line 1. The sum in shekels was more than one and less than ten.

Line 7. The price of wool (one mina for 1/2 shekel of silver) is the same as in *BE* 8, 127, 1 from Nippur (Murašû Archive), 424/3 B.C. (300 minas of wool for 2.5 minas of silver). It is a relatively low price if to rely on the comparative material which is dated between the middle of the 7th and the end of the 5th century B.C. and originates from various Babylonian settlements : one mina of wool cost 4-8 shekels of silver, but also 1/3 and 1/4 shekel of silver (*LBAT* 258 r. 13 and *BIN* 1, 144, 1 ; *Nbn.* 1115, 3 resp.), as well as even 0.22 (E. and V. Revillout, *PSBA* 9, 237 : 94, 1), 0.21 (*Nbn.* 963, 1), 0.2 (*TCL* 13, 224, 7) and 0.15 (*CT* 55, 754, 4) shekel of silver (for dates and places cf. B. Meissner, *Warenpreise in Babylonien* [APAW 1936/1], Berlin 1936, 24f. ; *CAD* Š/3, 63f.).

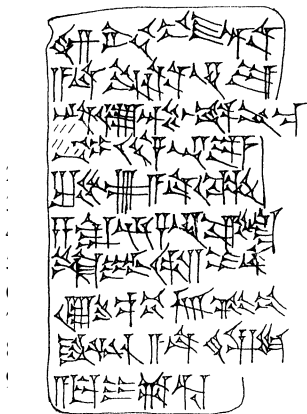
Line 8. *ma-si-iš-tu*₄ < Old Iranian **Masišta*- « the biggest, highest ; chief (of a troop) » ; -št- reflects a non-Persic dialect.

R. Cf. *ROMCT* 2, 48 ; Stigers, *JCS* 28, 24 :3. The seal of Sîn-nādin-šumi resembles that which is described in Bregstein, Seal use, 656 : 1255 (Nippur, 411/0 B.C., but the career of the seal owner started in 439/8 B.C.) : « bald and clean-shaven Babylonian worshipper facing right wears a long fringed robe with a central pleat and a tall, pointed cap. In his raised right hand he holds a branch ; in his lowered left hand he holds a bucket. In the field opposite him there are a rhomb, a rod and [a] ring(?). » The seal in the middle belongs to Ninurta-iddina, but is not entirely identical with his seal on *NBC* 6150. The lower part of the right seal is not preserved. Its owner is not known (the inscription is entirely destroyed). It depicts a Babylonian worshipper facing right his both hands raised in prayer.

Ran and Tikva Zadok (08-01-97)

NABU 1997-14 Ran & Tikva Zadok

PTS 2005 — We should like to thank Professor Erle V. Leichty, who most generously let us study this tablet (copied and collated by Tikva Zadok).



Translation

¹Letter of Nidinti-Šamaš ²to the *šatammu*-official my lord. ³May ³Šamaš and Bunene pronounce ⁴the well-being of my lord. ⁵Concerning ⁶the tent(s) (or canopy/canopies), which (my) lord sent, ⁷the *qīpu*-official is not here ⁸and ¹⁰he sent ⁹all the workmen ⁹with him for the digging (work) ¹⁰of the canal.

Remarks

Lines 1ff. The greeting formula leaves no doubt that the letter is from Sippar. I do not know anything about the sender of this letter.

Line 2. *šatammu* – high temple official. J. MacGinnis (WO 26, 1995, 21ff.) argues that no *šatammu*-s of Sippar postdate the end of the Neo-Assyrian rule in Babylonia. Like most epistolary documents, this letter is undated. Its ductus is not decisive for the dating : it can be either from the late-Assyrian or the « Chaldean » period (but hardly Achaemenian). From the context it cannot be established who was senior, the *šatammu* or the *qīpu*.

Line 10. *ītabak* may be Gt preterite rather than G perfect.

Ran and Tikva Zadok (08-01-97)